



# LARC



Volume 60, Number 09

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation September 2020

## FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

*From ARRL Newsletter August 28, 2020*

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its NPRM. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services," the FCC said.

The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. File comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

*September 3, 2020  
Will be On The Air*

**VE Testing TBD [w5ddl.org](http://w5ddl.org)**

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P. O. Box 51174  
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **GENERAL MEETING**

September 3 6, 2020 @ 7:00 PM  
Meeting will be Over The Air

Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>

### **Local 2-Meter Nets**

#### **Monday**

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
147.040 PL 103.5 +0.600 Lafayette, LA

#### **Tuesday**

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM  
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### **Wednesday**

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM  
146.820 PL 103.5 New Iberia, LA

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## **August 2020**



### **VE Test Session**

**August 1, 2020**

*Today we had a very small test session with just two testies both of which passed the test. Antonio R. Guillory ~ KI5KKI ~ of Church Point passed the technician test and Jake M. Domingue ~ KI5JMD ~ upgraded to General which made for a good day for testing.*

*The VEs in attendance were Greg ~ K5LFT, Dave ~ N4ELM & John ~ W4HVH. Congrats to the new Ham & the New General along with a great big TNX t the VEs for their always excellent assistance.*



**73, de Greg ~ K5LFT**

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## New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut in October

From ARRL Newsletter 08/18/2020

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators — the **Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge (POC)** — will debut October 3 – 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. Scoring for the **POC**, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include *National Contest Journal (NCJ)* — an ARRL publication — but the POC will not be an official NCJ or ARRL contest.

“NCJ’s role is to encourage hams who don’t contest to give it a try,” NCJ Editor Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, said. “It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities.”

Other sponsors include the UK DX Foundation (**CDXC**), the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (**HARAOA**), and the South African Radio League (**SARL**).

“I think the [POC] steering committee, consisting of both veteran DX contest participants and some of the best portable operators in the world, has come up with something worth giving a go,” Howell said. “With this scoring metric, it’s more about radiosport than radio gear.”

According to the contest rules, scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital. For the 2020 event, the number of transmitters concurrently in use will be restricted to two.

Portable stations may not make use of permanently installed amateur radio equipment or facilities but may use ac mains power. The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square.

Contact Howell at [fmhpoc@gmail.com](mailto:fmhpoc@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Scouting’s Jamboree on the Air Set for October 16, 17, and 18

From ARRL Newsletter 08/31/2020

Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**) and Jamboree on the Internet (**JOTI**) will be held this year on October 16, 17, and 18. [Register](#) online as an individual or as a group.

Jamboree on the Air is the largest Scouting event in the world. In a typical year, more than 1 million Scouts participate in JOTA, with over 11,000 stations operated by 20,000+ young radio amateurs from 150+ countries around the world.

[JOTA details](#) are available on the K2BSA website. The website menu will direct users to additional supporting information. K2BSA’s Jim Wilson, K5ND, says many locations are already offering virtual radio merit badge classes “and no doubt will be using similar approaches for Jamboree on the Air.”

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## ARRL 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Scheduled for October 3 - 4 Weekend

The 2020 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will take place October 3 - 4. The annual, nationwide exercise provides Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers the chance to test personal emergency-operating skills and communication readiness in a simulated emergency deployment. ARRL is asking participants to adhere to Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department COVID-19 guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following recommended cleaning and disinfecting practices.

ARRL Field Organization leadership at the Section and local levels -- as well as many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communication -- are developing emergency scenarios with a variety of agencies and organizations they've partnered with in the past during real emergencies and disasters.

Given the ongoing pandemic, an in-person emergency exercise may not be possible this year, but volunteers are encouraged to adapt to the circumstances. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

Volunteers with ARES, the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN™, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented amateur radio groups are among those eligible to participate in the SET to practice emergency operation plans, nets, and procedures.

ARRL has long-standing relationships with several national organizations including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army, among others.

This year's SET can be a chance to reach out to these partners -- at a safe distance and/or via online meetings and teleconferences -- to establish or review plans and develop working relationships.

ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting local or Section-wide SETs on dates other than the October 3 - 4 focal-point weekend, but no later than the end of the calendar year. Contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager or ask your Section Manager.

Additional [information about SET and the reporting forms](#) are available on the ARRL website.

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An elderly ham driver was going down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled his call...Answering...he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning....."Hey Elmer, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I-40 the wrong way, please be careful"!!

Elmer replied,"Well I'll declare, it's not just one.....  
there's hundreds of them'!!!!!!!!!!

I've always been told that I have a face for radio  
And a singing voice for silent movies.

Yesterday I saw an ad that said "radio for sale, \$1, volume stuck on full"  
I thought, "I can't turn that down"

## Hurricane Watch Net Logs More than 29 Hours of Continuous Operation for Laura

*From ARRL Newsletter 08/28/2020*

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) logged 29.5 hours of continuous operation in advance of Hurricane Laura, beginning at 1300 UTC on August 26, and after the storm made landfall.

One primary function of the HWN is to elicit real-time ground-level weather conditions and initial damage assessments from radio amateurs in the affected area and relay that information to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) via WX4NHC.

“Since Laura had become a Major Hurricane (Category 3) overnight, well ahead of earlier forecasts, we opened our net on both 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz,” said HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. “We did this for two reasons. HF propagation was horrible on both bands, and we wanted to make sure anyone trying to contact us would be able to do so.” Graves said it strained resources, but the net was able to get its job done. The HWN remained in continuous operation until Thursday, August 27, at 1830 UTC, well after Hurricane Laura made landfall in Louisiana, near the Texas border.

“In many ways, Laura seemed similar to Hurricane Michael in 2018, as it rapidly intensified close to landfall, nearly becoming a Category 5 hurricane,” Graves said. “Additionally, with major hurricanes, you normally have a few eye-wall replacement cycles. I don’t recall there ever being one [with Laura], and meteorologists I know agree.”

Graves noted that on Wednesday afternoon, forecasters at the National Hurricane Center used a phrase not typically heard, in order to get a point across: unsurvivable storm surge. The ominous prediction certainly caught on with the media and was widely repeated.

“Given the terrain for the projected impact of Laura, the storm surge was expected to move well inland, as far as 40 miles, with depths as high as 15 to 20 feet in some areas,” he said.

Throughout its more than a day of operations, the HWN collected and forwarded numerous surface reports to the National Hurricane Center. Graves said that Emergency Management in Louisiana checked in with the net on 14.325 MHz to announce its presence on 7.255 MHz.

“After Laura was downgraded to a tropical storm, we shifted gears and began asking for post-storm reports from those affected by Laura,” Graves recounted. “We also called for emergency or priority traffic.”

Graves expressed his appreciation to other stations for moving aside for the net to use 14.325 and 7.268 MHz. “Having a clear frequency certainly makes our job easier, and we know those in the affected area greatly appreciate it as well,” he said.

Graves noted that the forecast for this year’s hurricane season is reminiscent to that of 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck. “It is forecast to be a very busy season,” he said. “When it comes to hurricane season, never drop your guard.” Families should have plans in place ahead of a major storm, and to factor the COVID-19 pandemic into those plans, he advised.

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An old, old ham was lying in his death bed upstairs. His most favorite food in the world was chocolate chip cookies. As he lay there, gasping for each breath, he was sure he could smell freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies. He crawled out of bed and slowly limped down the stairs. Sure enough, across the kitchen, there was a huge platter of chocolate chip cookies on the table. He finally made it to the table and he reached a shaking hand towards the cookies. Suddenly, his XYL slapped his hand sharply and yelled,  
**"DON'T TOUCH THOSE-they're for the funeral!"**



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## Some Amateur Radio Definitions

For those new to ham radio, here are some useful definitions, pertaining to antennas and DX-ing.

S.W.R. -- A term, applied to any part of the antenna system, which means: "Savings-to-Watt Ratio". Based on the inverse relationship of dollars in the bank and effective radiated power.  
Characteristic Impedance The usual reaction of your spouse when told about the proposed antenna system.

Traps -- Devices installed in antennas to collect rain-water, to keep it from running further down the antenna.

Wind Loading -- The measure of how much more awkward it gets to handle a big beam as you ascend the tower.

Balun -- (Pronounced: "balloon" by many). An anti-surveillance device, installed in coaxial lines at the antenna, to prevent nosy neighbors from eavesdropping on you through their TV sets.

Transmatch -- A device mistakenly believed to decrease S.W.R.. The premise is that this device allows you to load up into a mis-matched antenna. Unfortunately, it the cost of one that lowers your S.W.R.

House Bracket -- A device which secures the house and the tower together. It lets the tower do double-duty by holding up the house during severe windstorms.

Rotator Control Box -- A device which is designed to let you monitor antenna "windmilling".

Windmilling -- A technique whereby prevailing winds are allowed to rotate the antenna, enabling the operator to "scan" the radio horizon.

Dummy Load -- A measure of the stress exerted on a tower by a ham who climbs the tower without a safety belt.

Coax -- (Usually mis-pronounced as two syllables). A term applied to the maneuvering of a piece of transmission line through the attic or walls of a house.

Db's Gain -- A bunch of yellow-jacketed wasps found a great place to build their nest, at the bottom of the rotator housing on my tower.

Db's Loss -- Fortunately, lightning struck the tower and the wasps were totally destroyed.

Vertical -- A much-maligned antenna, said by some critics to "radiate equally poorly in all directions". This is not true, as many who have built one know. In fact, the vertical can have directional characteristics, and not radiate at all in some directions. I hope this clears up that myth once and for all!

Sloper -- A variation of the vertical, where high winds have affected thin-walled aluminum tubing used in the construction.

## Local 2-Meter Nets

**MONDAY**

*AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA*

**WEDNESDAY**

*Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM  
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA*

**TUESDAY**

*Region 4 Skywarn Net 7:00 PM  
145.370 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA*

**THURSDAY**

*On-The-Air General Meeting 7:00  
147.040 +0.600 PL 103.50 W6EXI repeater*

## *AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net*

Net Controllers will rotate each week and held on the 146.820 W5DDL Repeater only.

The AARA Monday Night Net and the Silent Key Memorial Net is being held on the 146.820.

The September 2020 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website. [Net Schedules](#)

## *REGION 4 SKYWARN NET*

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 Skywarn Net will take place on the 145.370 Skywarn Repeater in Lafayette, LA. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

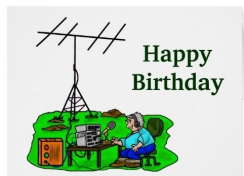
In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The September 2020 schedule can be found at this link: [Net Schedules](#)

When using the Skywarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8 - Central 103.5

See our website for additional information: <http://www.w5ddl.org/repeaters.htm>



09-05	KI5GIZ	Lester
09-10	K5LIF	Clifton
09-13	W5MLE	Fred
09-16	N5HVV	Dalton
09-19	WD5CAE	Melvin
09-24	KE5UPK	Irma
10-04	KI5DHH	David
10-04	K5LFT	Greg
10-05	W5OHJ	Tom

*Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing names to be missing from the list.*

*Don't forget to renew your membership by January 31<sup>st</sup>.*

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**  
**Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>**



*Share the Fun ~  
Bring a Friend  
to be a HAM.*

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## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

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**September General Meeting      September 3, 2020 7PM On W5EXI Repeater (see Page 7)**

*For any additional information, check the [W5DDL.org](http://W5DDL.org) website*

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### **Mom's 5-Minute Fudge**

I found one of my mother's old recipes. (I still have her cookbooks, and her recipe file.) Quick and easy fudge. Although it only cooks about 5 minutes, it takes longer to make.

1 14-oz can Condensed Milk  
2 ½ cups dry roasted peanuts  
Butter or Pam

1 bag Chocolate Chips  
2 cups mini marshmallows

Line a 9" square baking dish with parchment paper or wax paper with enough excess hanging over the sides of the pan to use as "handles". Spray paper with cooking spray or grease with butter.

Combine the condensed milk, and chocolate chips in a medium sized, heavy saucepan. Bring to a slight boil over medium-high heat, whisking often. Stir until melted. Let cool for 5 to 10 minutes, then, gently fold in the nuts and marshmallows.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish and spread evenly. Refrigerate the candy until firm. Remove the candy by the paper "handles" and cut into 1" squares.

### ***FCC Information Service***

*Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur  
Radio license inquiries about new/  
vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322  
This will connect you the FCC Na-  
tional Call Center, handled by the  
FCC's Consumer Information Bu-  
reau. Amateurs having ULS prob-  
lems or questions should contact  
the FCC's ULS Technical Support  
staff at: 202-414-1250 or:*

*[ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).*

**FCC Website:**

*<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>*

*New call sign information can  
also be obtained from the ARRL/  
VEC at 860-594-3000.*

*<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>*

*The mailing address to the FCC  
is:  
Federal Communications Commis-  
sion,  
445 12th Street SW  
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